



Montana

Department of Labor and Industry

Commissioner's Office

Contact: Michelle Robinson, Communications Director

TELEPHONE: (406)444-1520

FAX: (406)444-1394

e-mail: mirobinson@mt.gov

March 6, 2007

P.O. BOX 1728

HELENA, MT

59624-1728

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Main Street Montana Spring Edition Highlights Roosevelt County

HELENA - - - "Wolf Point - Wheat and Oil Capital of N.E. Montana," reads the 1953 license plate held by former Chamber Secretary Pete Coffey on the cover of the spring edition of the Main Street Montana; a publication produced by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry in partnership with the Montana Department of Commerce and the Governor's Office of Economic Development.

"Historically Montana has been an agricultural exporting state," said Labor Commissioner Keith Kelly. "Today we face the challenge of growing our rural communities to reduce the exportation of our workforce."

From cash crop to cutting edge, the spring edition unearths how rural Montana, is partnering, with the assistance of Montana Agro-Energy Plan Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (MAP-WIRED) funds, for a global phenomenon with government, local Innovation Centers, Tribes, educators, private industry, farmers and community-based entrepreneurs.

"Five decades ago it was a plea for water that changed the face of farming in northeastern Montana," recalls Kelly.

(more)

“Today it’s diversification. By shifting from a cash crop economy to one that is boosted by agricultural production and processing of renewable energy we have the ability to increase the net return and stability of farm income, reduce the out-migration of our rural workforce, and become competitive in the global market.”

###

An electronic copy of the publication is available at www.mainstreet.mt.gov